

an opportunity for an informal hearing. This request may be granted or denied at the discretion of the Assistant Secretary for Trade Administration.

(e) When a hearing is granted, the Assistant Secretary for Trade Administration may designate an employee of the Department of Commerce to conduct the hearing and to prepare a report. The hearing officer shall determine all procedural questions and impose such time or other limitations deemed reasonable. In the event that the hearing officer decides that a printed transcript is necessary, all expenses shall be borne by the appellant.

(f) When determining an appeal, the Assistant Secretary for Trade Administration may consider all information submitted during the appeal as well as any recommendations, reports, or other relevant information and documents available to the Department of Commerce, or consult with any other persons or groups.

(g) The submission of an appeal under this section shall not relieve any person from the obligation of complying with the provision of this regulation or official action in question while the appeal is being considered unless such relief is granted in writing by the Assistant Secretary for Trade Administration.

(h) The decision of the Assistant Secretary for Trade Administration shall be made within a reasonable time after receipt of the appeal and shall be the final administrative action. It shall be issued to the appellant in writing with a statement of the reasons for the decision.

Subpart L—Miscellaneous Provisions

§ 700.90 Protection against claims.

A person shall not be held liable for damages or penalties for any act or failure to act resulting directly or indirectly from compliance with any provision of this regulation, or an official action, notwithstanding that such provision or action shall subsequently be declared invalid by judicial or other competent authority.

§ 700.91 Records and reports.

(a) Persons are required to make and preserve for at least three years, accurate and complete records of any transaction covered by this regulation (OMB control number 0625-0107) or an official action.

(b) Records must be maintained in sufficient detail to permit the determination, upon examination, of whether each transaction complies with the provisions of this regulation or any official action. However, this regulation does not specify any particular method or system to be used.

(c) Records required to be maintained by this regulation must be made available for examination on demand by duly authorized representatives of Commerce as provided in § 700.71.

(d) In addition, persons must develop, maintain, and submit any other records and reports to Commerce that may be required for the administration of the Defense Production Act and this regulation.

(e) Section 705(e) of the Defense Production Act provides that information obtained under this section which the President deems confidential, or with reference to which a request for confidential treatment is made by the person furnishing such information, shall not be published or disclosed unless the President determines that the withholding of this information is contrary to the interest of the national defense. Information required to be submitted to Commerce in connection with the enforcement or administration of the Act, this regulation, or an official action, is deemed to be confidential under section 705(e) of the Act and shall not be published or disclosed except as required by law.

§ 700.92 Applicability of this regulation and official actions.

(a) This regulation and all official actions, unless specifically stated otherwise, apply to transactions in any state, territory, or possession of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(b) This regulation and all official actions apply not only to deliveries to other persons but also include deliveries to affiliates and subsidiaries of a person and deliveries from one branch,